ATLAS
MYSTERY TALES
MYSTERY TALES
10¢
AN.
NO. 17
"THE MOVIE HOUSE HORROR!"
"WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE!"
"THE BLACK CROWS!"
"MAN WITHOUT EYES!"

JUNIOR SPACE PILOTS ON THE BEAM!

GIVEN!

BOYS! GIRLS! LADIES! MEN!

WE GIVE YOU CASH OR PREMIUMS!

I'M IN A HURRY TO GET BACK TO OUR EARTH BASE, PENNY, THE MAIL MAN'S BRINGING MY NEW CAMERA!
JUMPIN' JUPITER! YOU'RE SURE SIZZLING TH' OL' ROCKET TODAY, TED!
SAY! THAT CAMERA SURE IS SUPERSONIC! YOU MUST HAVE STRUCK A URANIUM LODE!
DIDN'T COST ME A DIME- JUST GOT IT FOR SELLING WHITE CLOVERINE BRAND SALVE!
HURRY AN' GET DE-PRES-SURIZED!

MAIL COUPON

Footballs, Pocket Watches, etc.

Fishing Outfits . . . Flashlights . . . 1000 Shot Daisy Air Rifles

ACT NOW!

HURRY

I'VE EARNED A SWELL RADIO AND A TELESCOPE TOO! IT'S EASY SELLING TO YOUR FRIENDS - AND YOU GIVE 'EM THESE SWELL ART PICTURES -
THAT'S FOR ME!

WE ARE RELIABLE!

Cameras, Corn Poppers, Speedball Cartoon Sets, Aluminum Ware, Blankets (sent postage paid). Mail coupon for SALVE and pictures to start.

ACT NOW

Ukeleles, Watches, Lovable Dolls.

WHITE CLOVERINE BRAND SALVE PRICE 35¢

OUR 58th YEAR

Alarm Clocks, Pen & Pencil Sets, etc. Mail coupon.

ACT NOW

BE FIRST

Radios, Candid Cameras with carrying cases, Telescopes, Roller Skates (sent postage paid) . . . Mail coupon to start.

LET'S GO!

MAIL COUPON! GET BIG CATALOG!

Candid Cameras with carrying case, Telescopes, Watches (sent postage paid). SIMPLY GIVE pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold to friends, neighbors, relatives at 35c a box (with picture). Alarm Clocks, Pen & Pencil Sets, Bibles, Billfolds, Telescopes, Roller Skates, Blankets, Aluminum Ware, Record Players, Movie Machines (postage pd.). Rush coupon to start!

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LET'S GO!

WE TRUST YOU!

OUR 58th YEAR!

Food Choppers, Carving Sets, Bibles. Mail coupon.

LOOK!

.22 Cal. Rifles, Archery Sets, School Boxes, Wallets. Mail coupon for SALVE and pictures to start.

LET'S GO!

Footballs, Telescopes (sent postage paid). Boys', Girls' Bicycles (express chgs. collect).

ACT NOW!

Boys', Girls' Wrist Watches, Baking Sets, Typewriters, etc.

Lucite Dresser Sets, Cook Books, etc.

ACT NOW!

MAIL NOW!

Wilson Chemical Co., Dept. 148-B, Tyrone, Pa. Date.....

Gentlemen:- Please send me on trial 14 colorful art pictures with 14 boxes of White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE to sell at 35c a box (with picture). I will remit amount asked within 30 days, select a Premium or keep Cash Commission as explained under Premium wanted in catalog sent with order, postage paid to start.

NAME ..... AGE .....

ST. ..... R. D. ..... BOX .....

TOWN ..... ZONE NO. ..... STATE .....

PRINT LAST NAME HERE

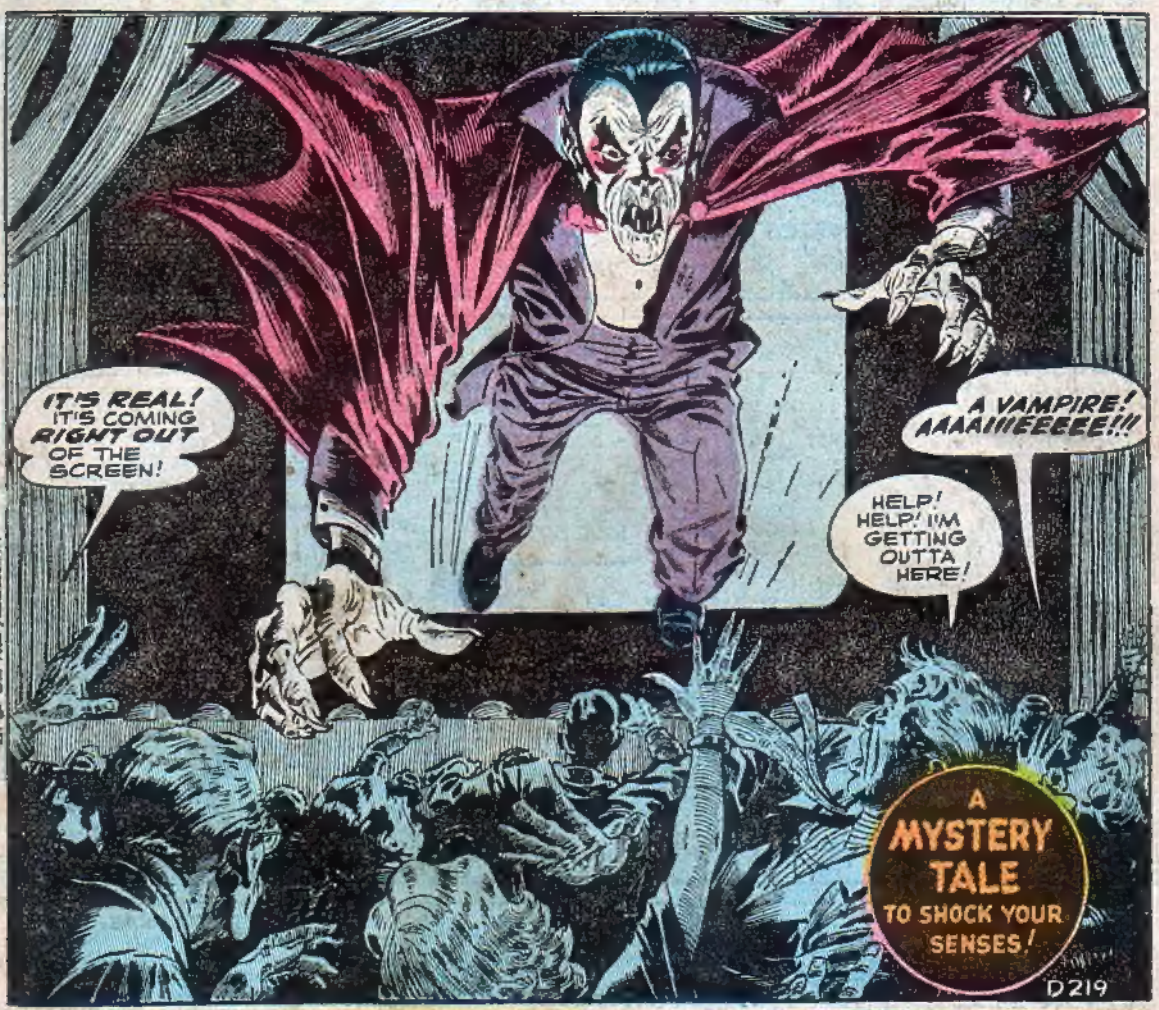
Paste coupon on postal card or mail in envelope today

OUR 58th YEAR - WE ARE RELIABLE! MAIL

MYSTERY TALES is published by 20TH CENTURY COMIC CORP. Office of Publication: 270 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at New York, N. Y. under the Act of March 3, 1879. Additional entry at CANTON, OHIO. Published bi-monthly. Copyright 1953 by 20TH CENTURY COMIC CORP., 270 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. Vol. 1, No. 17, JANUARY 1954 issue. Price 10c per copy. Subscription rate $1.45 for 12 issues including postage. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions appearing in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the U.S.A., Monroe Froehlich, Jr., Business Manager.

3-D MOVIES ARE THE BIG THING TODAY...SO HERE'S OUR FIRST WEIRDIE POPPIN' OUT AT YOU FROM THE SILVER SCREEN! DON'T GET US WRONG...WE'RE ALL FOR 3-D! BUT SOMETIMES THINGS CAN GET OUT OF HAND...AND WHEN THEY DO...LOOK OUT, BROTHER!

THE MOVIE HOUSE HORROR!


IT'S REAL! IT'S COMING RIGHT OUT OF THE SCREEN!
A VAMPIRE! AAAAIIIEEEEE!!!
HELP! HELP! I'M GETTING OUTTA HERE!
A MYSTERY TALE TO SHOCK YOUR SENSES!
D219

IT WAS A SAD DAY FOR BILL BURTON, OWNER OF THE SUPREME THEATER WHEN HE SAW HIS MOVIE-GOING AUDIENCE DWINDLING DOWN TO THE POINT WHERE HE WAS ON THE VERGE OF BANKRUPTCY...

BUSINESS IS GETTING WORSE AND WORSE, BOSS! NOBODY GOES TO SHOWS ANY MORE!

BUT THERE'S GOT TO BE AN ANSWER TO IT! WE CAN'T JUST LET OURSELVES BE BEATEN LIKE THIS!

I GUESS YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO CLOSE UP AND GO INTO SOME OTHER BUSINESS! THE MOVIES AIN'T PROFITABLE SINCE T.V. TOOK OVER!

QUIT AND CLOSE UP THE SUPREME? NEVER! I'LL DROP DEAD FIRST! THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME ANSWER AND I'M THE GUY WHO'S GOING TO FIND IT!

BILL WALKED DOWN BROADWAY DEEP IN THOUGHT, HIS MIND WORKING OVER MANY POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM, UNTIL FINALLY...

ALL OF THESE MOVIE HOUSES TRYING TO BEAT T.V. WITH THAT CRAZY 3-DIMENSION STUFF! BUT THE PEOPLE DON'T GO FOR WEARING THOSE GLASSES TO SEE THINGS LOOKING REALISTIC! HMM...

SUPER DIMENSIONAL MOVIE AT THE

3-DIMENSIONS, EH? I'LL DO BETTER THAN ALL OF THEM! I'LL HAVE THE *GREATEST* 3-D SHOWS IN TOWN! *MINE* WILL BE *BETTER* THAN *ANYONE'S!*

BILL'S IDEA SOON HAD ALL THE PEOPLE AT THE THEATER WORKING.

COME ON, GET THOSE FORMS READY! I WANT THEM TO LOOK SOLID AND REAL! I WANT TO SCARE THE DAYLIGHTS OUT OF THAT AUDIENCE!

HIS TONGUE WAS LIKE A WHIP-LASH, AND HE DROVE HIS MEN DAY AND NIGHT TO PREPARE FOR THE GRAND OPENING OF THE NEW *"REAL DIMENSIONAL"* SHOW...

MAKE SURE YOUR MEASUREMENTS ARE RIGHT! I WANT THEM TO COME RIGHT OUT OVER THE AUDIENCE..THEY'VE *GOT* TO BE SOLID AND REALISTIC!

AND AS THE OPENING DAY APPROACHED, HE BECAME MORE VICIOUS AND UNBEARABLE.

GET THOSE PULLEYS STRUNG UP! *WORK FASTER*, YOU IDIOTS! WE'VE GOT TO GET THIS WORKING PERFECTLY!

IN HIS DRIVE FOR WEALTH AND POWER BILL LOST ALL INTEREST IN THE WELFARE OF HIS WORKERS! HE DIDN'T BOTHER WITH SAFETY DEVICES OR PRECAUTIONS! AND THEN...

MR. BURTON! NEWTON IS HURT BAD! ONE OF THOSE STEEL BARS FELL ON HIM! I TRIED TO WARN YOU!

WELL, GET HIM TO THE HOSPITAL, AND PUT ANOTHER MAN IN HIS PLACE! I CAN'T HOLD UP A BIG OPERATION BECAUSE OF ONE MAN'S CARELESSNESS!

BILL, THIS WHOLE THING IS DANGEROUS! NEVER BEEN TRIED BEFORE AND ACCIDENTS CAN HAPPEN... TO THE AUDIENCE!

TO BLAZES WITH THEM! THRILLS ARE WHAT THE PUBLIC WANTS AND I'M GIVING IT TO 'EM!

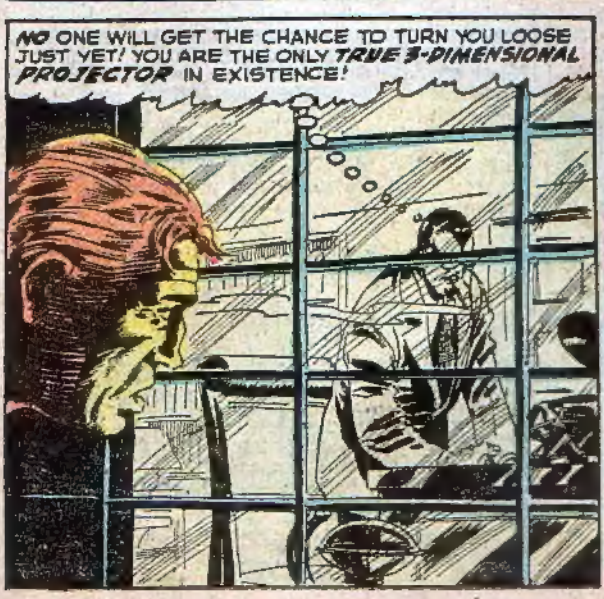
THE NEW SHOW OPENED, AND THE FIRST NIGHTERS SAW THE MOST HORRIFYING 3-DIMENSIONAL IN EXISTENCE... THE SCREAMING STARTED AS THE BAT FLEW OUT OF THE BACKGROUND!
THE SOLID, LIFELIKE FIGURES CAME RIGHT OUT AT THEM THROUGH THE SCREEN TO TERRIFY THEM WITH A CLOSENESS THAT SEEMED REALISTIC!
THREE WOMEN FAINTED WHEN THE VAMPIRE REACHED OUT AT THEM WITH FANGS BARED FOR THEIR BLOOD!
BUT THEN, SOMETHING HAPPENED, AND THE AUDIENCE LEAPED TO ITS FEET, CRYING OUT IN TERROR WITH ONE MASS SCREAM!
LOOK OUT!
IT'S FALLING!
HELP!
IT'LL CRUSH US!
WE'LL BE KILLED!
THE PULLEYS... THEY BROKE!
AND AFTER THE CATASTROPHE, THERE WAS ONLY THE MOANING OF THE WOUNDED, AND PEOPLE CRYING OVER THEIR LOVED ONES WHO WERE KILLED OUTRIGHT...
I'M RUINED! ALL THAT MONEY I PUT INTO THE PLACE... AND NOW NO ONE'LL EVER COME BACK TO SEE REAL DIMENSIONAL MOVIES AGAIN! I'M LOST!
BAH, THAT WAS A STUPID ATTEMPT AT 3-DIMENSIONS! THE WORLD ISN'T READY FOR TRUE REALISM! I'VE DISCOVERED THE SECRET OF MAKING ACTORS WALK RIGHT OUT OF THE SCREEN ONTO THE STAGE... BUT I'M NOT REVEALING MY SECRET TILL I'M READY!
YOU MEAN YOUR EXPERIMENTS HAVE SUCCEEDED, PROFESSOR? I KNOW THAT WHEN YOU'RE READY, YOU'LL MAKE ALL THESE AMATEURS LOOK LIKE FOOLS!

I HEARD YOU! SELL ME THE SECRET! I'VE GOT TO HAVE IT! I'LL PAY YOU ANYTHING YOU ASK!
HOW DARE YOU, SIR!
I'M VERY SORRY, BUT MY DISCOVERY IS A SCIENTIFIC ONE, AND IT IS NOT FOR SALE TO ANYONE!

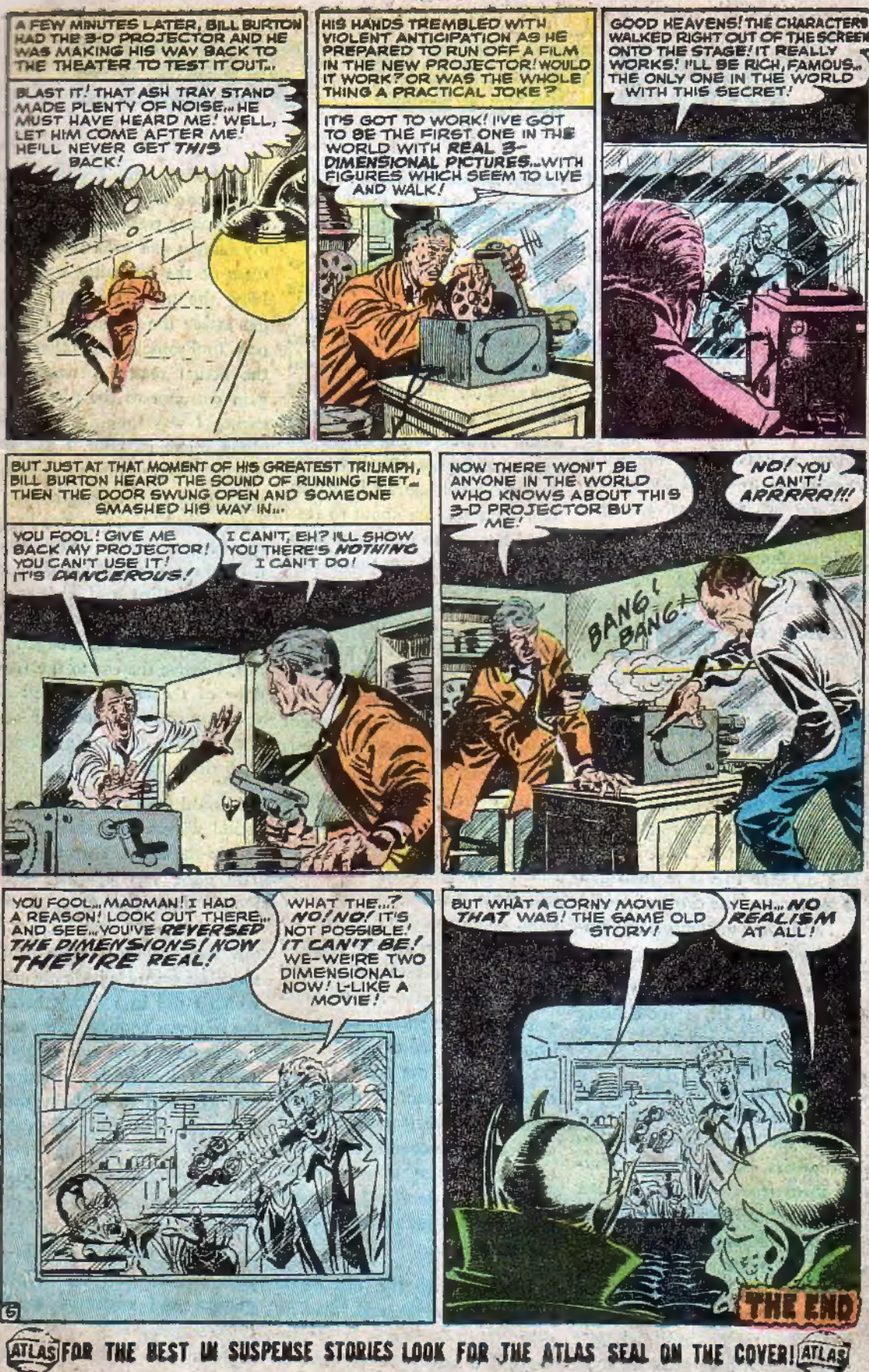
HE COULDN'T ALLOW HIMSELF TO BE STOPPED WITH RICHES AND FAME JUST WITHIN HIS GRASP! HE FOLLOWED THE TWO MEN, MAKING SURE THAT THEY COULDN'T SEE HIM...

BURTON WAS RIGHT! THE PROFESSOR WENT TO A SECRET DRAWER IN HIS DESK AND BROUGHT OUT A STRANGE LOOKING MOVIE PROJECTOR...

AH, MY LIFE'S WORK! THEY WOULD LIKE TO TAKE YOU AWAY FROM ME AND GIVE YOUR SECRET TO THE WORLD! BUT IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS, WOULDN'T IT? THEY'RE NOT READY YET... ARE THEY?



BILL WAITED UNTIL THE PROFESSOR TURNED OUT THE LIGHT AND LEFT THE ROOM! THEN SILENTLY HE OPENED THE WINDOW DOORS AND ENTERED THE ROOM...


A FEW MINUTES LATER, BILL BURTON HAD THE 3-D PROJECTOR AND HE WAS MAKING HIS WAY BACK TO THE THEATER TO TEST IT OUT..
BLAST IT! THAT ASH TRAY STAND MADE PLENTY OF NOISE.. HE MUST HAVE HEARD ME! WELL, LET HIM COME AFTER ME! HE'LL NEVER GET THIS BACK!
HIS HANDS TREMBLED WITH VIOLENT ANTICIPATION AS HE PREPARED TO RUN OFF A FILM IN THE NEW PROJECTOR! WOULD IT WORK? OR WAS THE WHOLE THING A PRACTICAL JOKE?
IT'S GOT TO WORK! I'VE GOT TO BE THE FIRST ONE IN THE WORLD WITH REAL 3-DIMENSIONAL PICTURES..WITH FIGURES WHICH SEEM TO LIVE AND WALK!
GOOD HEAVENS! THE CHARACTERS WALKED RIGHT OUT OF THE SCREEN ONTO THE STAGE! IT REALLY WORKS! I'LL BE RICH, FAMOUS.. THE ONLY ONE IN THE WORLD WITH THIS SECRET!
BUT JUST AT THAT MOMENT OF HIS GREATEST TRIUMPH, BILL BURTON HEARD THE SOUND OF RUNNING FEET.. THEN THE DOOR SWUNG OPEN AND SOMEONE SMASHED HIS WAY IN...
YOU FOOL! GIVE ME BACK MY PROJECTOR! YOU CAN'T USE IT! IT'S DANGEROUS!
I CAN'T, EH? I'LL SHOW YOU THERE'S NOTHING I CAN'T DO!
NOW THERE WON'T BE ANYONE IN THE WORLD WHO KNOWS ABOUT THIS 3-D PROJECTOR BUT ME!
NO! YOU CAN'T! ARRRRR!!!
BANG! BANG!
YOU FOOL.. MADMAN! I HAD A REASON! LOOK OUT THERE.. AND SEE..YOU'VE REVERSED THE DIMENSIONS! NOW THEY'RE REAL!
WHAT THE...? NO! NO! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE! IT CAN'T BE! WE-WE'RE TWO DIMENSIONAL NOW! L-LIKE A MOVIE!
BUT WHAT A CORNY MOVIE THAT WAS! THE SAME OLD STORY!
YEAH.. NO REALISM AT ALL!
THE END
5
ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN SUSPENSE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

UNEXPECTED GUESTS

YOU may have read some of my travel articles in the magazines and admired the photographs which illustrated my features. I don't believe there is a well known picture magazine printed anywhere in the world today which has not, at one time or other, reproduced some of my photographs. My profession is an ideal one, I've always thought. I love to travel, and my work enables me to do all the traveling my heart desires, and get paid for it too! You see, I write articles about the places I go to, and the people I meet, and the small adventures I have. The stories in themselves are quite interesting, even if I do say so myself! But what makes them doubly appealing to the reader is the fact that my camera travels with me wherever I go, and the reader can see for himself the places and the people I am writing about. The picture magazines pay me well, too. And it is in this manner that I've managed to see most of the civilized world . . . and some uncomfortably uncivilized spots too!

I've witnessed voodoo ceremonies in Haiti, spine-chilling affairs! I photographed head-hunters in South America along the Amazon River. The natives never bothered white men. They feared the retribution of the law authorities. But nothing prevented them from warring on other native tribes deep in the jungle and decapitating their enemies. Then came the awesome process of shrinking their heads and hanging them up in a trophy hut. I had the doubtful privilege of photographing some of these victims before and after . . . and you may have seen these weird pictures in a national magazine.

All this is by way of introduction to the following adventure which happened to me during a trip through Scotland. If you knew nothing of my professional background, you would surely be inclined to disbelieve my tale which follows. But if a man can witness and photograph voodoo rites and head-hunters in action, then what you are about to read *could* happen to that same man. And I can assure you that it did!

After visiting several museums in the larger cities of Scotland and taking a number of pictures, I rented a car and drove into the country areas, where I was told I would find some ancient castles still standing. This was what I really wanted to see. Of course, most of these castles were in a state of ruin. Time and the elements had taken their toll. But I was told that there was one castle that was still in fairly good condition. In fact, the direct descendants of the original nobleman who had built it still lived in this castle. My problem was to talk the present occupants into allowing me to photograph the interior of the castle. I knew there are some people who would consider it some manner of sacrilege to commercialize the historic interest of an edifice such as a castle. Well, I would take care of that problem when the time came.

Directions to the old castle were fairly simple, and I had no difficulty in finding it. It was, indeed, in a nearly perfect state of preservation, and I parked the car as near to it as I dared without actually trespassing. I set up my camera and took several pictures of the imposing structure. Now the problem was how to get inside the castle? If I could only find some excuse other than the actual reason I wanted to gain entrance to the place. The excuse I was looking for came along moments later. I had noticed a group of black clouds being blown in my direction by a rising wind. A storm was brewing. Now surely the occupants of the old castle would not deny me the hospitality and shelter of their home! It was worth a try anyway. As the rain began to fall, I drove the car to the front door of the castle, scurried out with my camera under my arm, and knocked on the big oak door with the brass knocker.

I could hear the knocking resound within the entrance hallway of the castle. Then footsteps. The door was opened, and I looked into the wild, staring eyes of an old man. When he saw me, his face broke into a toothless grin. He bade me enter, which I did in a hurry, because the rain was coming down much harder now. I was amazed by the sight of the castle's interior. I had expected to find the rooms well-kept and fully furnished. Instead, there was dirt everywhere and cobwebs clinging to nearly every piece of furniture. Actually, there were not many chairs and tables left. The old man had noticed my surprised glances and answered my unspoken query about the scarcity of furniture. "Used up for fire-

CONTINUED BEFORE LAST STORY

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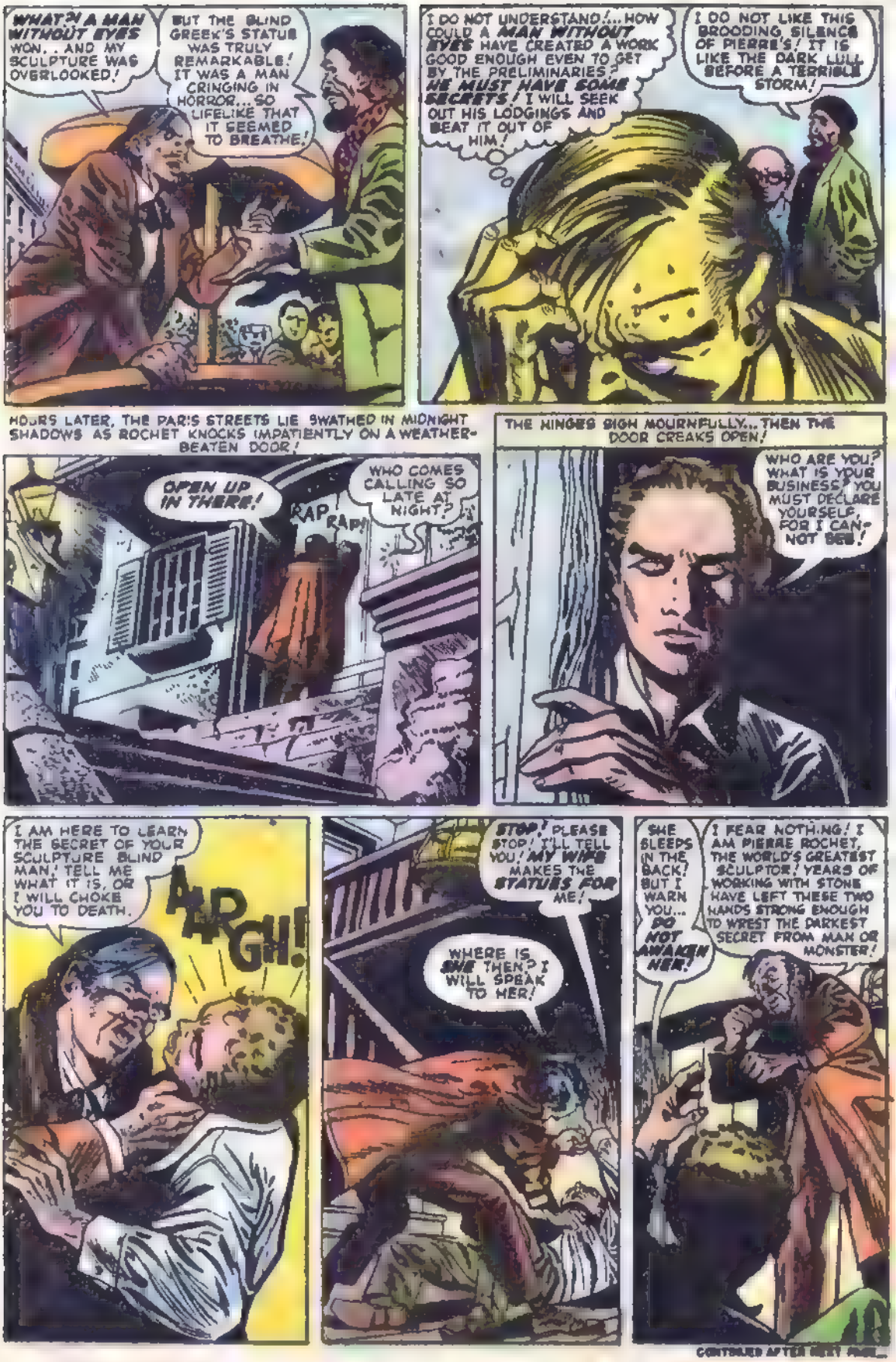
3-D OR NOT 3-D... THAT WAS THE QUESTION... AND NOW POOR BILL BURTON HAS THE ANSWER! HERE'S ANOTHER CREEP WHO WANTS SOMETHING SO BADLY, HE'D KILL FOR IT! LET'S STEP INTO THIS PARIS STUDIO AND FIND OUT WHAT'S BITING UNLUCKY PIERRE! MAD? HE'S CRAZY, MAN!

THE MAN WITHOUT EYES

REGARDEZ! WILL IT NOT MAKE THE NAME OF PIERRE ROCHET ONE TO CONJURE WITH? OBSERVE THE FLOWING LINES, THE PERFECT BALANCE!
SUPERB! IF THIS DOES NOT WIN THE GRAND PRIX FOR YOU THIS YEAR, PIERRE, I WILL EAT MY BERET!
A MYSTERY TALE TO SHOCK YOUR SENSES!
PAUL RAYMAN

AND YOU, HENRI? WHY ARE YOU SILENT?
I AM TRULY IMPRESSED! BUT FOR THE JURY THAT AWARDS THE GRAND PRIX, I FEAR THIS WORK MAY BE PERHAPS A TRIFLE TOO MODERN!

PLEASE, PIERRE, THAT TEMPER OF YOURS IS FORMIDABLE! YOU MUST TRY TO CONTROL YOURSELF!
CONTROL MYSELF... BAH! YEAR AFTER YEAR I HAVE ENTERED STATUES IN THE COMPETITION FOR THE GRAND PRIX, AND NEVER HAVE I WON! THIS IS MY MASTERPIECE! FOR MONTHS, DAY AND NIGHT, I HAVE SLAVED OVER IT! IF I DO NOT WIN THIS TIME I WILL GO MAD!
A WEEK LATER... AND DAWN IS BREAKING SLOWLY OVER PARIS! FOR MILLIONS OF PARISIANS, THIS WILL BE AN ORDINARY DAY, BUT FOR PIERRE ROCHET, THE DAY'S ENDING WILL BRING EITHER FULFILLMENT OR DESPAIR! FOR TODAY, THE GRAND PRIX IS TO BE AWARDED!
SIPPING ABSINTHE AFTER ABSINTHE, ROCHET WAITS GRIMLY FOR THE FATAL NEWS AT THE CAFE MOULIN!
HIS HANDS KEEP NERVOUSLY DRUMMING THE TABLE TOP! TENSION KEEPS MOUNTING INSIDE HIM LIKE HOT SEARING STEAM INSIDE A BOILER!
NOW HE SEES HIS FRIENDS APPROACHING IN THE DISTANCE! HE LEAPS FROM HIS CHAIR, FRANTICALLY TRYING TO READ THE EXPRESSION ON THEIR FACES
YOU LOST, PIERRE!
HIS FACE CONTORTED WITH FURY, HIS BODY WRACKED BY SOBS OF RAGE, ROCHET BEGINS SMASHING EVERYTHING HE CAN LAY HIS HANDS ON!
PIERRE... WHAT GOOD WILL THIS DO?
CRASH
WHO WON THE GRAND PRIX? AT LEAST TELL ME THE NAME OF THE WINNER, SO I CAN SPIT IN HIS FACE!
HE'S A GREEK SCULPTOR! AN UNKNOWN, AND TOTALLY BLIND!


WHAT?! A MAN WITHOUT EYES WON.. AND MY SCULPTURE WAS OVERLOOKED!
BUT THE BLIND GREEK'S STATUE WAS TRULY REMARKABLE! IT WAS A MAN CRINGING IN HORROR... SO LIFELIKE THAT IT SEEMED TO BREATHE!
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND!... HOW COULD A MAN WITHOUT EYES HAVE CREATED A WORK GOOD ENOUGH EVEN TO GET BY THE PRELIMINARIES? HE MUST HAVE SOME SECRETS! I WILL SEEK OUT HIS LODGINGS AND BEAT IT OUT OF HIM!
I DO NOT LIKE THIS BROODING SILENCE OF PIERRE'S! IT IS LIKE THE DARK LULL BEFORE A TERRIBLE STORM!
HOURS LATER, THE PARIS STREETS LIE SWATHED IN MIDNIGHT SHADOWS AS ROCHET KNOCKS IMPATIENTLY ON A WEATHER-BEATEN DOOR!
OPEN UP IN THERE!
RAP! RAP!
WHO COMES CALLING SO LATE AT NIGHT?
THE HINGES SIGH MOURNFULLY... THEN THE DOOR CREAKS OPEN!
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT IS YOUR BUSINESS? YOU MUST DECLARE YOURSELF, FOR I CANNOT SEE!
I AM HERE TO LEARN THE SECRET OF YOUR SCULPTURE BLIND MAN! TELL ME WHAT IT IS, OR I WILL CHOKE YOU TO DEATH.
AARGH!
STOP! PLEASE STOP! I'LL TELL YOU! MY WIFE MAKES THE STATUES FOR ME!
WHERE IS SHE THEN? I WILL SPEAK TO HER!
SHE SLEEPS IN THE BACK! BUT I WARN YOU... DO NOT AWAKEN HER!
I FEAR NOTHING! I AM PIERRE ROCHET, THE WORLD'S GREATEST SCULPTOR! YEARS OF WORKING WITH STONE HAVE LEFT THESE TWO HANDS STRONG ENOUGH TO WREST THE DARKEST SECRET FROM MAN OR MONSTER!
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

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Please enter my attached drawing in your current contest. (PLEASE PRINT)

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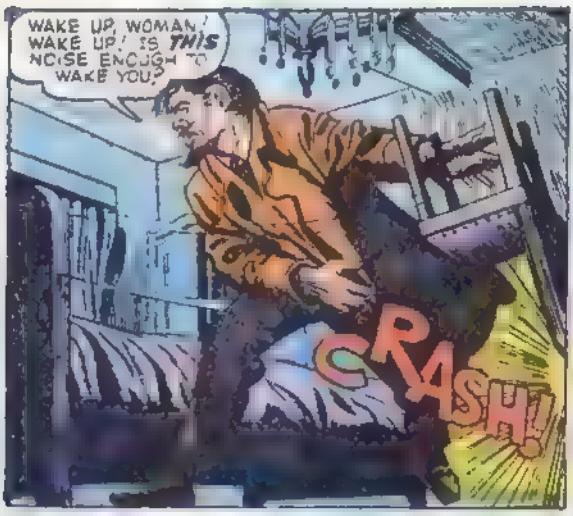
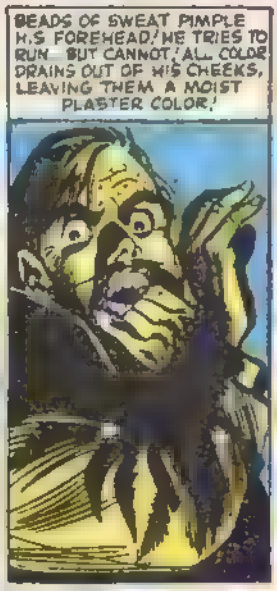
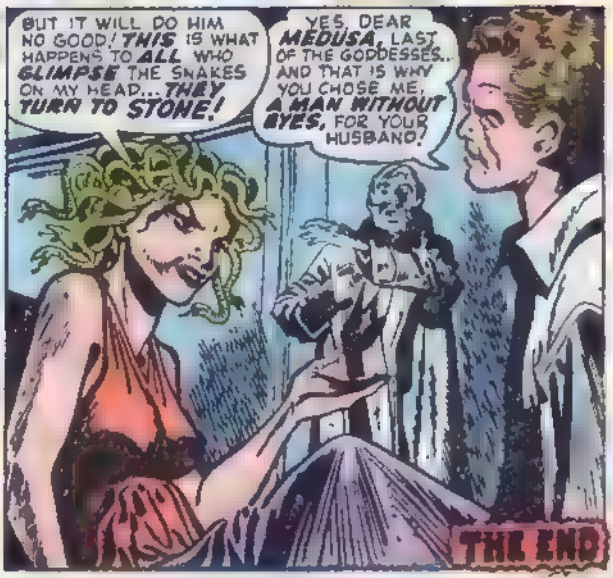
State_____ Occupation_____



THE WOMAN'S EYES FLICKER SLOWLY OPEN! SHE SEES ROCHET BENDING THREATENINGLY OVER HER, AND HER LIPS CURL IN AN ENIGMATIC SMILE.


BEADS OF SWEAT PIMPLE HIS FOREHEAD! HE TRIES TO RUN... BUT CANNOT! ALL COLOR DRAINS OUT OF HIS CHEEKS, LEAVING THEM A MOIST PLASTER COLOR!


BUT IT WILL DO HIM NO GOOD! THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS TO ALL WHO GLIMPSE THE SNAKES ON MY HEAD... THEY TURN TO STONE!
YES, DEAR MEDUSA, LAST OF THE GODDESSES.. AND THAT IS WHY YOU CHOSE ME, A MAN WITHOUT EYES, FOR YOUR HUSBAND!
THE END

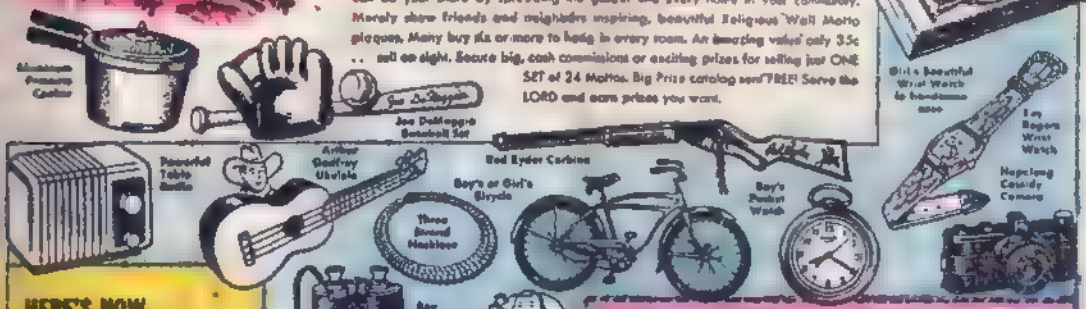
ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN SUSPENSE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

BOYS, GIRLS, MEN, WOMEN!

The World Is On FIRE

Serve The LORD and You Can Have These Prizes!

We will send you the wonderful prizes pictured on this page or dozens of others, such as rifles, jewelry, basketball silverware, home appliances, watches . . all WITHOUT ONE PENNY OF COST. Some are small, some are the greatest they have ever been. Our leaders say a reawakening of Christianity is needed to save us. You can do your share by spreading the gospel into every home in your community. Merely show friends and neighbors inspiring, beautiful Religious Wall Motto plaques. Many buy six or more to hang in every room. An amazing value only 35c . . sell on sight. Secure big, cash commissions or exciting prizes for selling just ONE SET of 24 Mottos. Big Prize catalog sent FREE! Serve the LORD and earn prizes you want.



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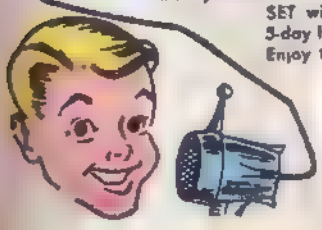

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NAME _____

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[illegible] PIERRE IS NOW THE HARDEST HEARTED SCULPTOR IN PARIS! EVERYBODY SEEMS INTERESTED IN MOUNTAIN CLIMBING THESE DAYS...SO WE MIGHT AS WELL GET INTO THE ACT TOO! STRANGE THINGS ARE GOING ON AROUND MT. KIMBERLY...AND YOU TOO WILL BE WONDERING!

WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE?

AN EXCITED CROWD WATCHED THRU POWERFUL TELESCOPES AS THE STRING OF MOUNTAIN CLIMBERS NEARED THE PEAK OF MT. KIMBERLY...

THE LEADER WAS A FRENCHMAN..LUIS FOIX! HIS ICE AXE REACHED UP AND DUG INTO THE TOP OF THE UNCONQUERED MOUNTAIN...

HE LIFTED HIMSELF UP.. UP TOWARD THE SUMMIT SLOWLY...

LUIS FOIX LOOKED OVER THE EDGE... HIS WHOLE BODY TREMBLED AND SHOOK...

MON DIEU! NO! NO! IT... IT CANNOT BE!

IN NORTHERN TIBET STANDS THE RECENTLY DISCOVERED KILLER... 32,000 FEET HIGH...A KILLER NAMED MT. KIMBERLY! AND ONLY THE MOUNTAIN ITSELF COULD ANSWER THE QUESTION... *WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE?*

YA-A-A-A-A-A!

THE CROWD AT THE TELESCOPES SAW THEM FALL... AND THEY ALL ASKED...

WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE?

A MYSTERY TALE TO SHOCK YOUR SENSES!

D-250

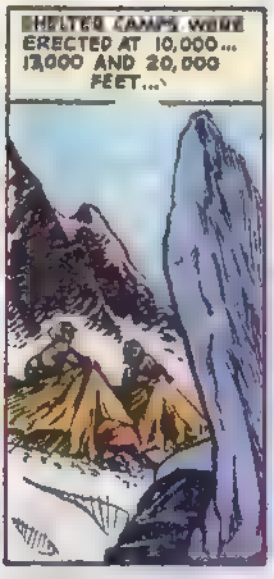
HE SLIPPED!
HE FELL!
HE JUMPED!
THE OTHERS PULLED HIM DOWN!
HE WAS PUSHED!
STOP IT! YOU ARE ALL GUESSING! LUIS FOIX WAS THE BEST MOUNTAIN CLIMBER IN THE WORLD! THE OTHERS IN THE PARTY WERE HIS FRIENDS! HE DIDN'T JUMP... HE WASN'T PUSHED... AND HE DIDN'T FALL!
THEN WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE?
NOBODY KNEW THE ANSWER... BUT THE NEWS WAS FLASHED TO ALL CORNERS OF THE WORLD... AND IN ONE OF THOSE CORNERS LIVED EMILE CORET...
...ANOTHER STEP... ANOTHER SECOND... AND LUIS FOIX WOULD HAVE BEEN THE FIRST MAN TO REACH THE TOP OF THE WORLD'S HIGHEST PEAK! BUT IT WAS NOT SO... AND TODAY THE ENTIRE WORLD IS ASKING...
...WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE?
YOU ARE A MOUNTAIN CLIMBER, CORET... WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS MYSTERY?
MYSTERY, BAH! THE FOOL GOT TOO EXCITED...TOO EAGER TO CLAIM THE GLORY.. AND HE GOT WHAT HE DESERVED!
DO YOU SAY THAT BECAUSE LUIS WAS ALWAYS A BETTER CLIMBER THAN YOU?
A BETTER DEAD CLIMBER, YES! BUT I AM ALIVE... SO THAT MAKES ME THE BEST!
DEAD OR ALIVE, LUIS FOIX WILL ALWAYS BE A BETTER CLIMBER UNLESS YOU BEAT THE CLIMB THAT KILLED HIM ..32,000 FEET UP MT. KIMBERLY! OR ARE YOU STILL TOO COWARDLY TO TRY?
OW-W!

THAT INCIDENT FORCED EMILE CORET TO ANNOUNCE TO THE PRESS A FEW DAYS LATER THAT HE WOULD CLIMB MT. KIMBERLY...
TWO OTHER MEN WILL BE IN THE PARTY! AND I WILL TAKE A CAMERA ALONG TO PHOTOGRAPH MY BANNER FLYING ON TOP OF MT. KIMBERLY AFTER I PERSONALLY PLANT IT THERE!
WHEN DO YOU EXPECT TO START, MR CORET?

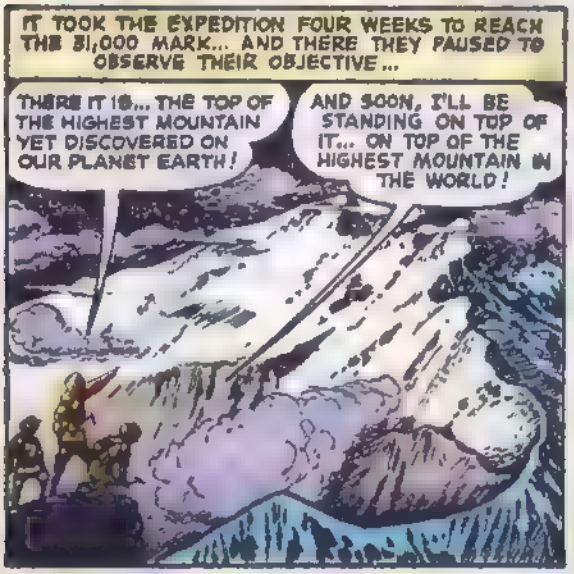
"THE SOONER THE BETTER!".. THAT WAS CORET'S ANSWER! AND THREE WEEKS AFTER THAT, HIS EXPEDITION STARTED UP THE SLOPES OF MT KIMBERLY..
GOOD LUCK! WE'LL BE WATCHING YOU ALL THE WAY UP, THRU THE TELESCOPES!

THE CLIMB FOR THE FIRST FEW DAYS WASN'T TOO DIFFICULT...

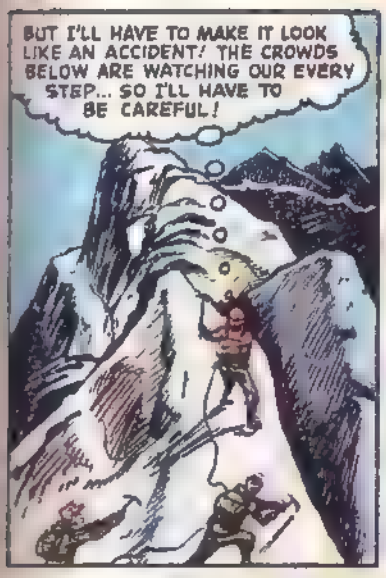
BUT DAYS LATER, THE PARTY REACHED THE GLACIERS! THEY PUT ON THEIR CRAMPONS AND TIED THEMSELVES TOGETHER WITH NYLON ROPE...

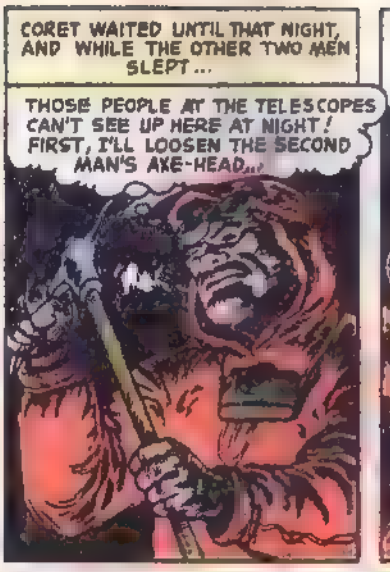

SHELTER CAMPS WERE ERECTED AT 10,000... 13,000 AND 20,000 FEET...

AT 27,000 FEET, A STRONG WIND WHIPPED THE CLIMBERS WITH ITS 80 MILE AN HOUR LASH..


IT TOOK THE EXPEDITION FOUR WEEKS TO REACH THE 31,000 MARK... AND THERE THEY PAUSED TO OBSERVE THEIR OBJECTIVE...
THERE IT IS... THE TOP OF THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN YET DISCOVERED ON OUR PLANET EARTH!
AND SOON, I'LL BE STANDING ON TOP OF IT... ON TOP OF THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN IN THE WORLD!

YEAH... AN' WE'LL BE THE FIRST AND ONLY MEN TO SET FOOT ON ITS PEAK!
YOU STUPID FOOLS! I'LL BE THE FIRST MAN OF THIS EXPEDITION UP THERE.. AND THE ONLY MAN!


BUT I'LL HAVE TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT! THE CROWDS BELOW ARE WATCHING OUR EVERY STEP... SO I'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL!


CORET WAITED UNTIL THAT NIGHT, AND WHILE THE OTHER TWO MEN SLEPT...
THOSE PEOPLE AT THE TELESCOPES CAN'T SEE UP HERE AT NIGHT! FIRST, I'LL LOOSEN THE SECOND MAN'S AXE-HEAD...!

AND THEN I'LL CUT THE ELASTIC NYLON ROPE IN A SECTION BETWEEN ME AND THE MAN BEHIND ME... JUST ENOUGH TO WEAKEN IT!

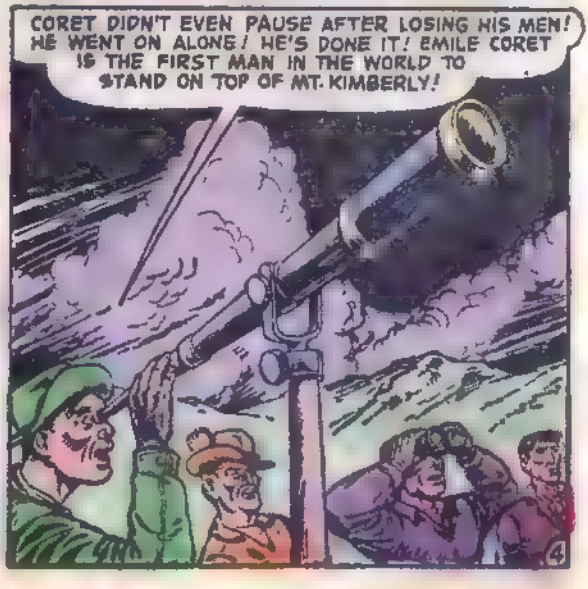
WITH LESS THAN A THOUSAND FEET TO GO, THE PARTY WAS OFF EARLY THE FOLLOWING MORNING...
HE'LL HAVE TO USE HIS AXE WHEN HE COMES TO THIS LEDGE, TO HOIST HIMSELF UP... AND WHEN HE DOES...

HELP! MY AXE-HEAD CAME OFF!
MY ROPE WILL SAVE YOU!

CORET SAID IT... BUT HE KNEW IT WASN'T SO... THE WEAKENED ROPE SNAPPED...

AND THEN THE FORCE OF THE PLUNGING BODY YANKED THE OTHER MAN OFF, AND ..

HA! THE FOOLS! BY THE TIME THEIR BODIES REACH THE BOTTOM I'LL BE PLANTING MY BANNER AT THE TOP!


CORET DIDN'T EVEN PAUSE AFTER LOSING HIS MEN! HE WENT ON ALONE! HE'S DONE IT! EMILE CORET IS THE FIRST MAN IN THE WORLD TO STAND ON TOP OF MT. KIMBERLY!

THE PEOPLE WATCHED AND WAITED... AND SOON THEY SAW CORET START DOWN AGAIN...
HE... HE'S SO HAPPY, HE'S LAUGHING TO HIMSELF!
DAYS, AND TEN THOUSAND FEET, LATER... CORET WAS STILL LAUGHING...
AND WHEN THE CHEERING CROWD GREETED CORET, HE WAS HOWLING!
THE TWO DOCTORS LOOKED AT EACH OTHER AND SHOOK THEIR HEADS...
HE'S INSANE!
WITHOUT A DOUBT!
CORET WAS FLOWN TO AN INSANE ASYLUM! HE WAS THE FIRST AND ONLY MAN TO SET FOOT ON THE TOP OF MT. KIMBERLY ... BUT THE PEAK STILL REMAINED A MYSTERY...
IT'S A BLASTED SHAME! A CLIMBER LIKE LUIS FOIX FALLS TO HIS DEATH... A MAN LIKE CORET GOES INSANE AFTER SEEING THE TOP OF KIMBERLY... BUT WHY? WHY?
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE!
YES, WE WILL, DOCTOR! I PRINTED A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN FROM THE CAMERA CORET CARRIED! IT SHOWS WHAT HE SAW... AND WHAT LUIS FOIX MUST HAVE SEEN UP THERE!
GOOD HEAVENS! NO WONDER THEY WERE SHOCKED!
WELCOME TO MT. KIMBERLY
SOUVENIRS OF MT. KIMBERLY
10¢
10¢
THE END
5

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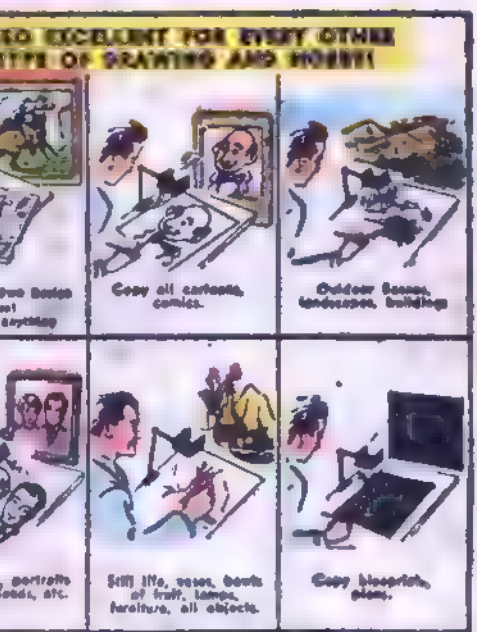
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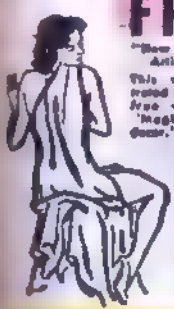

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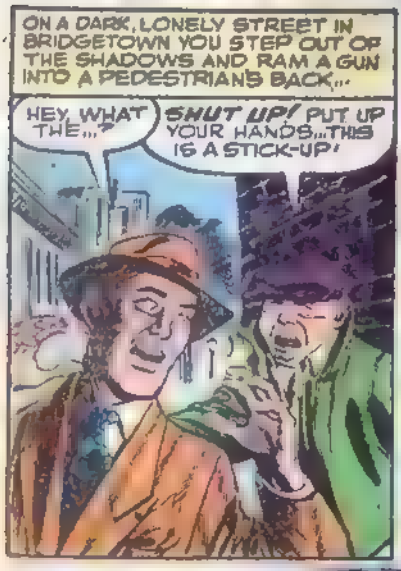
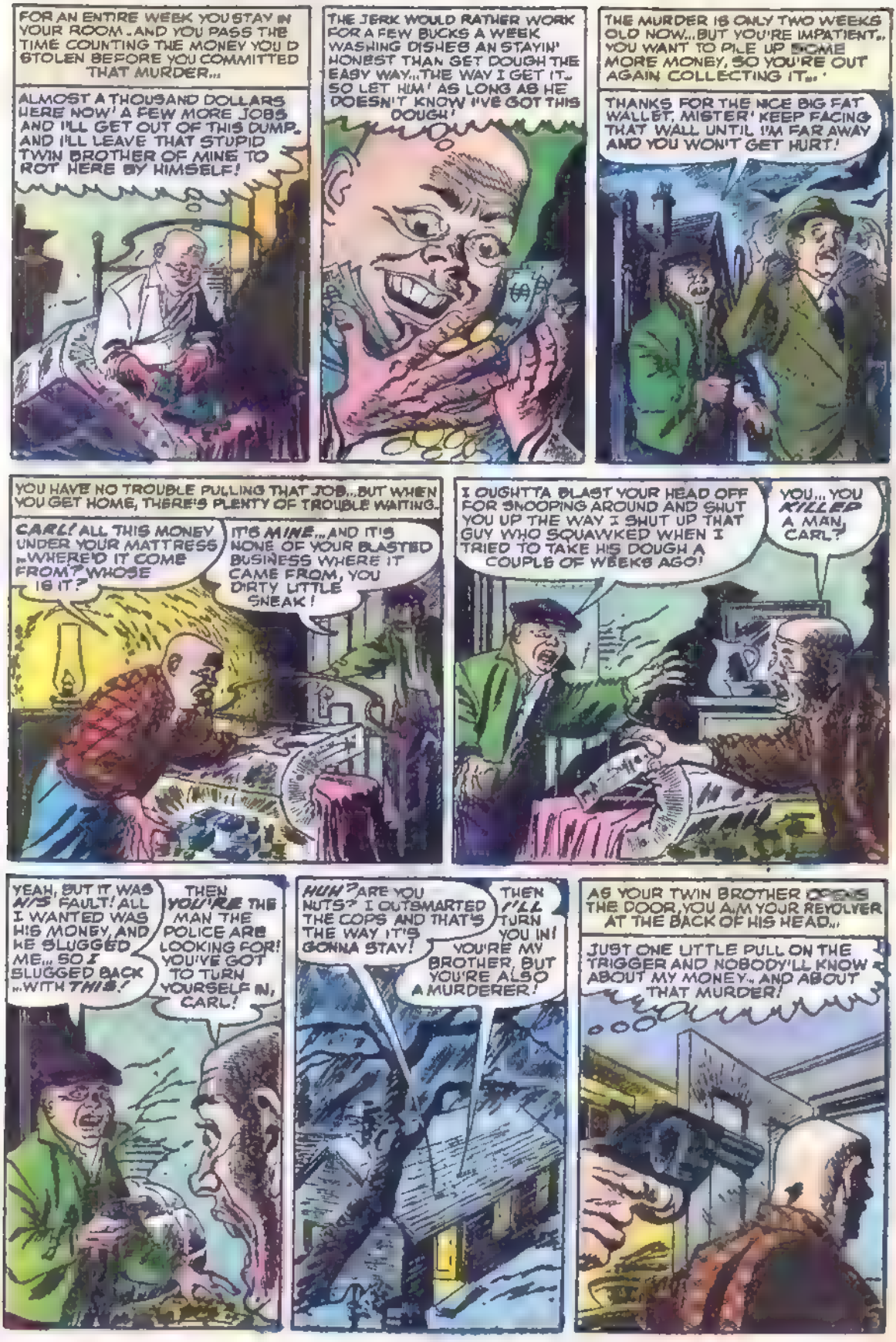
YOU CAN'T TWIN


ON A DARK, LONELY STREET IN BRIDGETOWN YOU STEP OUT OF THE SHADOWS AND RAM A GUN INTO A PEDESTRIAN'S BACK...
HEY, WHAT THE...
SHUT UP! PUT UP YOUR HANDS... THIS IS A STICK-UP!

THAT'S MURDER YOU'VE JUST COMMITTED, CARL! YOU'VE KILLED A MAN AND YOU'RE SCARED
YOU START TO RUN...
YOU RUN FAST... THRU DARK ALLEYS AND BACK YARDS..
YOU RUN AS IF THE GHOST OF THE MAN YOU JUST KILLED IS AFTER YOU..
..AND THEN YOU REACH THE PLACE WHERE YOU LIVE WITH YOUR TWIN BROTHER! IT'S A DUMP...A DIRTY, FILTHY SHACK... YOU SAID SO YOURSELF A THOUSAND TIMES..
BUT THE PLACE LOOKS GOOD TO YOU NOW AS YOU PRESS AGAINST THE DOOR! YOU FEEL SAFE - WITH ONLY A DOOR BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR CRIME, YOU FEEL SAFE...
BUT THE DOOR CAN'T SHUT OUT YOUR THOUGHTS! YOU KEEP SEEING THE DEAD MAN'S FACE... YOU HEAR HIS SCREAM... YOU HEAR A VOICE CALL YOUR NAME...
CARL! CARL! CAN'T YOU HEAR ME? WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
HUM? OH.. IT'S ONLY YOU, ROY!
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BLASTED BUSINESS WHERE I'VE BEEN! BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? WHERE'D YOU GET THAT CUT ON YOUR CHEEK... AND THAT BLACK EYE?
YOU CAN ANSWER THAT BETTER'N I CAN, CARL! I WAS SITTING HERE READING THE PAPER ABOUT ALL THE ROBBERIES IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD LATELY, WHEN IT HAPPENED TO ME!
SURE YOU KNOW THE ANSWER, CARL! YOU AND ROY ARE IDENTICAL TWINS SO IDENTICAL THAT IF YOU HAVE A HEADACHE, ROY FEELS THE PAIN.. OR IF YOU GET SOCKED ROBBING A MAN ROY FEELS THE BLOW AND GETS THE BLACK EYE!
ARE YOU IN SOME KIND OF TROUBLE, CAR..? DID YOU HAVE A FIGHT?
NO! I TRIPPED AND FELL ...THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENED! NOW GET OUT OF HERE AND LEAVE ME ALONE!


FOR AN ENTIRE WEEK YOU STAY IN YOUR ROOM..AND YOU PASS THE TIME COUNTING THE MONEY YOU'D STOLEN BEFORE YOU COMMITTED THAT MURDER...
ALMOST A THOUSAND DOLLARS HERE NOW! A FEW MORE JOBS AND I'LL GET OUT OF THIS DUMP, AND I'LL LEAVE THAT STUPID TWIN BROTHER OF MINE TO ROT HERE BY HIMSELF!
THE JERK WOULD RATHER WORK FOR A FEW BUCKS A WEEK WASHING DISHES AN STAYIN' HONEST THAN GET DOUGH THE EASY WAY..THE WAY I GET IT.. SO LET HIM! AS LONG AS HE DOESN'T KNOW I'VE GOT THIS DOUGH!
THE MURDER IS ONLY TWO WEEKS OLD NOW...BUT YOU'RE IMPATIENT.. YOU WANT TO PILE UP SOME MORE MONEY, SO YOU'RE OUT AGAIN COLLECTING IT..
THANKS FOR THE NICE BIG FAT WALLET, MISTER! KEEP FACING THAT WALL UNTIL I'M FAR AWAY AND YOU WON'T GET HURT!
YOU HAVE NO TROUBLE PULLING THAT JOB...BUT WHEN YOU GET HOME, THERE'S PLENTY OF TROUBLE WAITING..
CARL! ALL THIS MONEY UNDER YOUR MATTRESS ..WHERE'D IT COME FROM? WHOSE IS IT?
IT'S MINE...AND IT'S NONE OF YOUR BLASTED BUSINESS WHERE IT CAME FROM, YOU DIRTY LITTLE SNEAK!
I OUGHTTA BLAST YOUR HEAD OFF FOR SNOOPING AROUND AND SHUT YOU UP THE WAY I SHUT UP THAT GUY WHO SQUAWKED WHEN I TRIED TO TAKE HIS DOUGH A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO!
YOU... YOU KILLED A MAN, CARL?
YEAH, BUT IT WAS HIS FAULT! ALL I WANTED WAS HIS MONEY, AND HE SLUGGED ME... SO I SLUGGED BACK ..WITH THIS!
THEN YOU'RE THE MAN THE POLICE ARE LOOKING FOR! YOU'VE GOT TO TURN YOURSELF IN, CARL!
HUH? ARE YOU NUTS? I OUTSMARTED THE COPS AND THAT'S THE WAY IT'S GONNA STAY!
THEN I'LL TURN YOU IN! YOU'RE MY BROTHER, BUT YOU'RE ALSO A MURDERER!
AS YOUR TWIN BROTHER OPENS THE DOOR, YOU AIM YOUR REVOLVER AT THE BACK OF HIS HEAD..
JUST ONE LITTLE PULL ON THE TRIGGER AND NOBODY'LL KNOW ABOUT MY MONEY.. AND ABOUT THAT MURDER!

BUT YOU DON'T PULL THE TRIGGER! YOU LET HIM GO, BECAUSE YOU'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA...
I'LL KILL HIM BEFORE HE GETS TO THE POLICE STATION... BUT I'LL MAKE IT LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT! AND I'LL BORROW THIS CAR TO MAKE THE ACCIDENT!
YOU STEAL THE CAR AND FOLLOW YOUR TWIN BROTHER DOWN THE DARK STREETS...
HE'S CROSSING THE BRIDGE! THAT'S THE PLACE TO GET RID OF HIM...
YOU PULL UP IN THE CAR! YOU GET OUT AND...
TALK TO THE FISH, DEAR BROTHER, IF YOU WANT TO TALK SO MUCH!
NO, CARL... DON'T!! DON'T!!!
YAAAA!!
MURDER! YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN! YOU GET INTO THE CAR AND SPEED AWAY FROM THE SCENE...
NOW NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT ME AND THE MURDER... OR ABOUT MY MONEY!
YOU REACH THE CENTER OF TOWN! YOU SPEED AROUND A CORNER... TOO FAST... AND THE CAR GOES OUT OF CONTROL...
A FEW MINUTES LATER, THERE'S A CROWD AROUND YOU... A POLICEMAN... A DOCTOR...
WELL, DOC, WHAT'S THE VERDICT? THE USUAL... DRUNK?
NO, MIKE... BUT YOU'LL THINK I AM WHEN I TELL YOU THE CAUSE OF DEATH!
THIS MAN DIED FROM DROWNING!
THE END
4

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN SUSPENSE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

CONTINUED

wood!" he said.

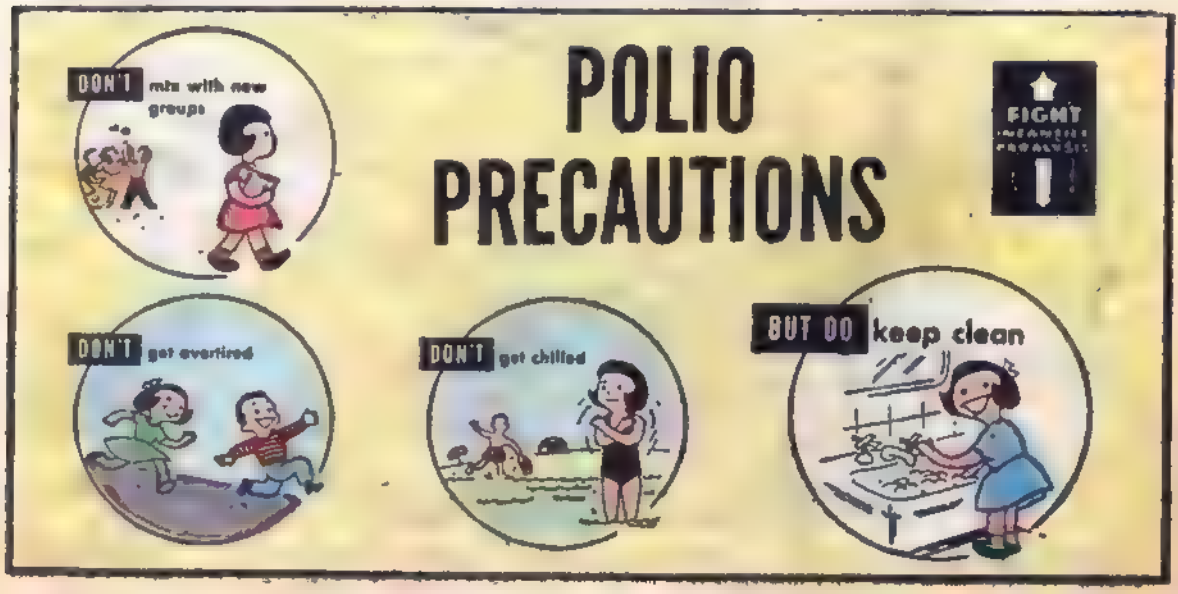
I began to wonder if this old man was the only inhabitant in the castle. But I soon discovered that several other men and women lived here, as my guide ushered me into a dining room. For here, at the dinner table, sat a group of people. All the men were old and toothless, with that eerie grin on their faces. The women were also old, wrinkled, with wildly disarrayed hair. My guide introduced them as his cousins. He further informed me that they were all direct descendants of the original "Black Earl" who had built the castle, and all these cousins lived in the ancient castle now! They invited me to sit down with them and join them at dinner. I accepted.

It was an excellent meal. The castle may have depleted its furnishings, but there was no shortage of good meat and wine. As the meal started, I noticed that there were two empty places at the table. I asked my host about this. He began his explanation by first telling me that the "Black Earl" and his wife had eaten all their meals at this very same table. One night, the wife had poisoned the Earl in a sudden fit of insanity brought on by the "Black Earl's" cruel treatment of her. This stormy night happened to be the 400th anniversary night of that tragedy. Every year the Earl's descendants held this dinner and placed two empty chairs before the settings of plates and silverware, as if the Earl and his mad wife were actually present! This tale caused cold chills to run up and down my spine. My host insisted that the castle was haunted by the "Black Earl" and his wife, and I was determined to finish my dinner as soon as possible, take some pictures with my host's permission, and leave the castle.

When the dinner was ended, I was granted permission to take pictures. I started with the group of cousins seated around the dinner table. Then I took some shots of the different rooms. Finally it was time for me to take my leave. I thanked my host and his cousins. They laughed in a wild, cackling way that made me wonder if the insanity of the Earl's wife had been passed down through generations to these descendants! I packed my equipment in the car and drove away. I was anxious to get to my hotel room in the city and develop the pictures to see how they had come out. That was when I received my greatest shock!

When I developed my films and made prints, my eyes stared in amazement at the photo of the family seated around the dinner table. The two chairs which were supposed to be empty, were occupied! In one chair sat the "Black Earl" himself in the costume of the 16th century! He was half-risen from his seat actually and he was clutching at his throat as he dropped a goblet of wine from his hand! He was in obvious agony. And in the chair next to him sat the Earl's mad wife, her hair flying wildly as she laughed hysterically! Yes, the ghosts of the "Black Earl" and his insane wife had been "sitting in" at that dinner table on the 400th anniversary night of the tragedy, and the horrible deed had been re-enacted and picked up on my infrared film!

THE END D-275



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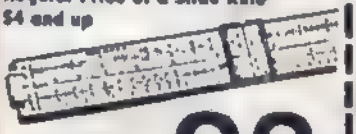

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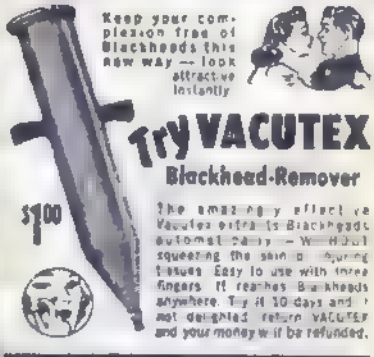

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HERE'S THE WINDUP, KIDDIES! MOST PEOPLE LIKE MUSIC, BUT HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT A COMPOSER HAS TO GO THROUGH TO CREATE THOSE GREAT SYMPHONIES AND CONCERTOS? WELL, HERE'S HOW ONE GUY DID IT! WITH A BIT OF HELP FROM...

THE BLACK CROWS!

SILENCE WRAPPED ITS MANTLE ABOUT THE SHOULDERS OF ELI ZORN, WITH A CHOKING THICKNESS AS STIFLING AS THE SURROUNDING FOG! BELOW, THE DARK WATERS GLIDED TOWARD ETERNITY WITH THE QUIET SICKNESS OF OIL..BECKONING..BECKONING! THEN, SUDDENLY...

HOLD IT! HOLD IT, FRIEND!

A MYSTERY TALE TO SHOCK YOUR SENSES!

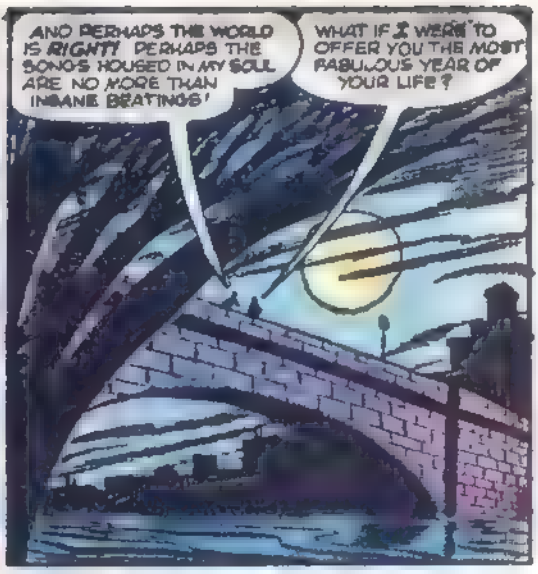
THE WORDS WERE WARM...BUT THE VOICE SEEMED PRESSED FROM THE LIPS OF THE FOG... COLD, MOIST, HOLLOW-SOUNDING! TERRIFIED, ZORN BROKE CLEAR OF HIS HYPNOTIC TRANCE..

W..WHO ARE YOU?

DOES IT MATTER? BESIDES, CURIOSITY IS A TRAIT RESERVED FOR THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN LIFE AND LIVING...NOT DEATH!

YOU..YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT! I...I DON'T CARE! NOW GO AWAY.. LET ME FINISH WHAT I MUST DO!

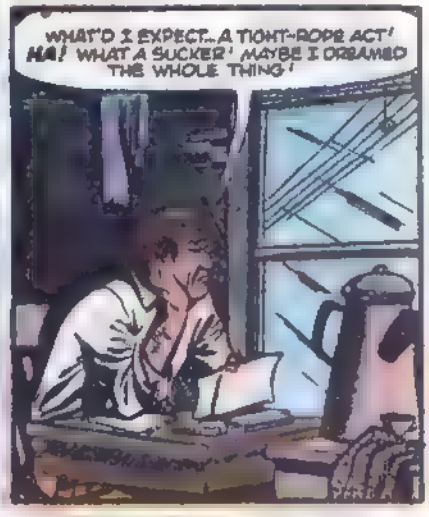
IMPOTENT RAGE AND BITTERNESS TOUCHED HIS BLOOD AGAIN, STIRRING UP BLEAK MEMORIES OF A HATEFUL PAST! ZORN THOUGHT OF HIS SHABBY ROOM, OF WEARY, STARVING MONTHS AND YEARS OF DISILLUSIONMENT...


AND PERHAPS THE WORLD IS *RIGHT!* PERHAPS THE SONGS HOUSED IN MY SOUL ARE NO MORE THAN INSANE BEATINGS!
WHAT IF *I* WERE TO OFFER YOU THE MOST FABULOUS YEAR OF YOUR LIFE?

HA! AS IF *YOU* HAD THE *POWER!*
PERHAPS I HAVE! I MUST WARN YOU...THERE *IS* A PRICE! AT THE END OF A YEAR, I WILL BE BACK..TO *COLLECT* YOUR LIFE!

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO LOSE? YOU WERE GOING TO *QUIT* ANYWAY! GO BACK TO YOUR GARRET, FRIEND! *AND OBSERVE* CLOSELY THE WIRES EXTENDING FROM YOUR APARTMENT WALL!

AS IF A PUPPET, ZORN OBEYED THE STRANGER'S COMMAND! BUT NEXT MORNING HE FELT VICTIMIZED...A FOOL!



BUT EVEN AS HE WATCHED, A STRANGE, WHIRRING SOUND OF FLAPPING WINGS FILLED THE AIR! UNCOMPREHENDING, ZORN OBSERVED A FLOCK OF CROWS SETTLE ON THE WIRES...

THE COMPOSER SEIZED HIS PENS AND CORED THE NOTES ON COMPOSITION PAPER, AS THE FLOCK CONSTANTLY FORMED AND REFORMED...

I CAN HARDLY KEEP UP WITH THEM!

DAY AFTER DAY, THE BLACK CROWS APPEARED AS IF SUMMONED! TIRELESSLY, THEY FOLLOWED A STRANGE PATTERN AS ZORN COPIED THEIR MOVEMENTS! WILD JOY FIRED HIS BLOOD...

JUST A FEW MORE DAYS OF WORK AND THIS MUSICAL MASTERPIECE WILL BE COMPLETED!

AND THEN ONE DAY..

FINISHED! BON VOYAGE, MY FEATHERED FRIENDS! THE REST IS UP TO ME... BUT I SHALL NOT FAIL! I COULDN'T!

AND HE WAS SO RIGHT! THE CONCERT IMPRESSARIO WAS ASTOUNDED AND ARRANGED A PERFORMANCE! AND ON THE BIG NIGHT, ZORN MOUNTED THE PODIUM, AN UNKNOWN...

THE MOMENT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! THIS IS IT!

AND BOWED AT THE FINISH, A **RECOGNIZED GENIUS!**

BRAVO!

BRAVO!

THE CRITICS WERE UNANIMOUS IN THEIR PRAISE!

I, I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT! SUCH MASTERY!

A MUSICAL "JOURNEY" SUCH AS I'VE **NEVER** HOPED TO TAKE!

WHO SAID THERE WAS NO MUSICAL GENIUS TODAY?

LONDON! ROME! PARIS! MONTHS OF TRIUMPH! A FULL LIFE... BRIMMING WITH PLAUDITS AND ACCLAIM!

BRAVO!

BRAVO!

BRAVO!

BRAVO!

BRAVO!

BRAVO!

BRA

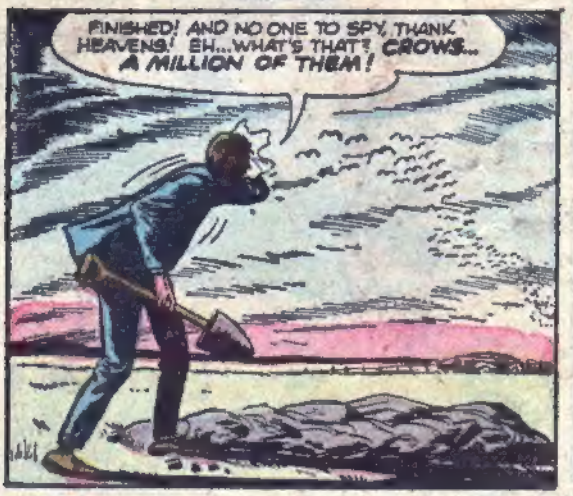
YES...LIFE WAS SUDDENLY GOOD FOR ELI ZORN! BUT NOTHING COULD COMPARE WITH MEETING AND WINNING THE HAND OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL IN THE WORLD!

TOO EXHILARATED TO SLEEP, ZORN STROLLED IN THE GARDEN AFTER MELINDA LEFT...

HIS KNEES BUCKLED AND HIS BLOOD LOWERED TO THE SHOCKING COLDNESS OF ICE! THE WORLD OF ELI ZORN WAS SCREAMING TOWARD DISASTER LIKE A CRESCENDO...

IN AN INSANE OUTBURST, ZORN FLUNG HIMSELF AT THE STRANGER AND FOUND HIS THROAT!

IN A FRENZY OF NITGHTMARISH ACTIVITY, ZORN LOADED THE BODY INTO HIS CAR AND FOUND A SECLUDED FIELD IN WHICH TO DISPOSE OF HIS VICTIM! FINALLY, AS DAWN GLIMMERED...



FEARFULLY, HIS BODY GALVANIZED INTO RUNNING ACTION AS HUNDREDS OF BLACK, FOUL WINGS FANNED HIS FACE WITH THE SWELL OF ATTACK AND **DEATH!**

THEY SWOOPED AND DIVED FOR HIS FACE AND EYES! HE FELT THEIR SHARP BILLS...THEIR CLAWED TALONS...

AS IF BY A MAGICAL COMMAND ZORN WAS SUDDENLY FREE OF THE WINGED ATTACK! BUT HIS LEGS WERE ROOTED! HIS OUTFLUNG ARMS STIFFENED AND BECAME RIGID...

MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE ELI ZORN'S SCREAMS FLOATED ACROSS THESE SILENT FIELDS, SO GREEN WITH GROWING THINGS!

THERE'S A BIG TREAT IN STORE FOR YOU BETWEEN THE COVERS OF THE NEXT GREAT ISSUE OF **MYSTERY TALES! DON'T MISS IT!**

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